## REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 13-18, 20-24, 26, and 28 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 14, 20-22, 26, and 28 have been amended. Claims 8, 19, and 27 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the title of the invention stands objected to as not being descriptive. Applicant has amended the title to overcome the objection. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Claim 20 stands objected to as containing an informality. More specifically, claim 20 stands objected to for containing an extra word "collect". In response, Applicant has amended claim 20 to address the objection to claim 20. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 20 is respectfully requested.Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-24, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Software Project Plan Tracking Intelligent Agent by Ching-Seh Wu ("Wu") in view of Software Metrics Knowledge and Databases from Project Management by Paul et al. ("Paul") and further in view of Rational User's Guide Version 4.5 ("Rational User's Guide").

Wu is directed to research, design, and development of a methodology to assist in tracking an entire process of a software development project. First, a Tracking Knowledge Model is created to predefine a general software project plan. Required knowledge objects of a software project plan are represented in a Plan Tracking Model using Unified Model Language (UML). Second, a prototype version of subsystems relevant to track project attributes is designed and implemented according to the Plan Tracking Model. Third, a Plan Tracking Intelligent Agent is implemented to assist managers in knowing status of the software projects and warning about problems. Finally, a distributed Internet/Intranet software project management environment is created.

7

Paul discloses an approach that can employ modern high-level analytical techniques in conjunction with a software metrics database to process metrics data in order to gain knowledge and detailed insight into the software development process. Construction and maintenance of large, high-quality software projects is a complex, error-prone, and difficult process. Tools employing software database metrics are described as playing an important role in efficient execution and management of such large projects. The framework disclosed in this paper incorporates database and knowledge-base tools, a formal set of software test and evaluation metrics, and a suite of advanced analytic techniques for extracting information and knowledge from available data.

Rational User's Guide discloses a tool for managing requirements for software projects so that the software projects are delivered on time, on budget, and on target. The tool is intended to help projects succeed by giving teams an ability to manage software project requirements comprehensively, while facilitating team collaboration and communication.

Independent claim 1 as amended is directed to a method for assessing stability of a structure of a project application. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of amended independent claim 1, namely, collecting data of a project application, the data being structured as branches and leaves for generating leaf and branch metrics, wherein the project application is a requirements document. In addition, the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to disclose computing from the project application data the leaf and branch metrics, wherein the data of the project application comprises text.

In contrast to claim 1, Wu discloses a methodology to assist in tracking an entire process of a <u>software development</u> project and not a <u>requirements document</u> as claimed. In addition, Wu fails to disclose a requirements document as claimed. Furthermore, since Wu is directed to software development projects, the data involved in assisting the software development project is <u>code</u> and not <u>text</u> as claimed in claim 1. Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure <u>software</u> quality but fails to disclose computing from a project application data leaf and branch metrics wherein the project application is a requirements document. The metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document as claimed. <u>Rational</u>

8

User's Guide, which discloses a tool for managing requirements for software projects, fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Paul noted above.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-5 and 7 distinguish over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a method for analyzing stability of a structure of a project application for analyzing progress of a project. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of amended independent claim 9, namely, collecting data of the project application, the data being structured as branches and leaves, wherein the project application is a requirements document. In addition, the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to disclose computing from the project application data the leaf and branch metrics wherein the data of the project application comprises text.

In contrast to claim 9, Wu discloses a methodology to assist in tracking an entire process of a software development project and not a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Wu fails to disclose a requirements document as claimed. Furthermore, since Wu is directed to software development projects, the data involved in tracking the software development project is code and not text as claimed in claim 9. Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality but fails to disclose computing from a project application data leaf and branch metrics wherein the project application is a requirements document. The metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document as claimed. Rational User's Guide, which discloses a tool for managing requirements for software projects, fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Paul noted above.

9

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 distinguishes over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 10-11 and 13-18 depend from and further restrict independent claim 9 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 10-11 and 13-18 distinguish over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 10-11 and 13-18 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a system for assessing stability of a structure of a project application. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of amended independent claim 20, namely, software configured to cause a processor to collect data of the project application, the data being structured as branches and leaves for generating leaf and branch metrics wherein the project application is a requirements document. In addition, the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to disclose compute the leaf and branch metrics from the project application data wherein the data of the project application comprises text.

In contrast to claim 20, Wu discloses a methodology to assist in tracking an entire process of a software development project and not a requirements document as claimed. In addition, Wu fails to disclose a requirements document as claimed. Furthermore, since Wu is directed to software development projects, the data involved in tracking the software development project is code and not text as claimed in claim 20. Paul discloses requiring metrics to measure software quality, but fails to disclose computing from a project application data leaf and branch metrics wherein the project application is a requirements document. The metrics as disclosed in Paul are not created based upon a requirements document as claimed. Rational User's Guide also discloses a tool for managing requirements for software projects and fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Paul noted above.

10

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 20 distinguishes over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 21-24 and 26 depend from and further restrict independent claim 20 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 20, dependent claims 21-24 and 26 distinguish over the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 21-24 and 26 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 28 relates to a system for assessing stability of a structure of a project application. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of amended independent claim 28, namely, means for collecting data of the project application, the data being structured as branches and leaves for generating leaf and branch metrics, wherein the project application being a requirements document. In addition, the cited combination of Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide fails to disclose means for computing the leaf and branch metrics from the project application data, wherein the data of the project application comprises text. Additionally, Applicant submits that claim 28 patentably distinguishes over Wu, Paul, and Rational User's Guide for similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 9, and 20.

   In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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12